

WEATHER

Fair tonight and Thursday; gentle to moderate northwesterly winds. Temperature past twenty-four hours: High, 44, at 2 p.m. today; low, 26, at 8:30 a.m. today.

For full report see page 18.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 18.

No. 19,908.

WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1915.—TWENTY-TWO PAGES.

ONE CENT.

U. S. CITIZENS LOST ON TORPEDOED SHIP

Leon C. Thrasher One of Ill-Fated 111 Aboard Steamer Falaba.

SHARP ISSUE RAISED, SAYS LONDON PAPER

No Report Has Been Received by the State Department in Washington.

LONDON, March 31.—Leon Chester Thrasher, an American citizen, was among the 111 persons who lost their lives when the British steamer Falaba was torpedoed last Sunday by a German submarine in St. George's channel. He was an employee of the Brookmans Mines Company and had been sent to the gold coast.

Thrasher had an American passport, and in the form he was required to fill out before embarking described himself as an American citizen, but gave no American address. Inquiry at the offices of the company in London elicited the information that nothing had been heard from Thrasher.

German Reveals Intention.

Passengers rescued from the Falaba say that when the submarine approached the steamer the German captain shouted in English through a megaphone: "I am going to sink you." The Daily Mail, in an editorial in connection with the drowning of Thrasher, says that the question whether the Washington government will permit a belligerent to destroy an unoffending passenger ship, carrying an American citizen, without giving that citizen any opportunity to escape, is raised in its sharpest form.

Lived in Massachusetts.

NEW YORK, March 31.—Leon Chester Thrasher, who was among the Falaba's passengers who perished, lived in Hardwick, Mass., before going to England. His mother, Mrs. M. L. Thrasher, lives there now.

The Eastern Dillon Company, bankers of this city, transacted business with Mr. Thrasher and received from him a number of letters from time to time, the last being written at Plymouth, England, February 18. The firm did not know whether he was an American citizen, but thought he was.

Some of Mr. Thrasher's letters to his mother, it was said, were forwarded to her through the German consul at London, and that he had written in the year, Mr. Thrasher said he had finished with the gold coast, and thought he would return to London within a short time.

Word to His Mother.

You can expect to see me within two or three months, was the word he sent his mother, as recalled by a representative of the banking firm.

Little is known here of Mr. Thrasher's personal affairs. The bankers had corresponded with him at intervals, they said, while he was in the country, and on one occasion had transmitted to him money sent from abroad for him to go to the gold coast. It was thought that he was unmarried.

In his last letter to the firm Mr. Thrasher wrote: "You can write me at 27 Cartwright street, London, E.C. 4, London, W.C. 1." This was the address given by Thrasher when he filled out the passport form in England.

Was Born in Hardwick.

HARDWICK, Mass., March 31.—Leon Chester Thrasher, one of the passengers whose lives were lost when the British steamer Falaba was sunk by the German submarine off the coast of Wales last Sunday, was a citizen of the United States. He was born in this town in 1884.

This was established today by his mother, Mrs. Mary L. Thrasher. Leon, she said, was the second of four children.

Leon Thrasher lived here until 1901, when he went to Springfield to learn the machinist's trade. After completing his apprenticeship he became a traveling master mechanic, his work taking him to many parts of the world. After journeying all over the United States he went to Alaska, and later to continental Europe.

Received Letter Friday.

Mrs. Thrasher received a letter from her son last Friday, in which he wrote that he would sail from Liverpool on the Falaba for Broomfield, Africa, where he had obtained a position as master mechanic in the mines.

The next she heard of him was when she read in this morning's papers that the Thrasher family had appealed to Washington to learn the circumstances of the death of Leon. He was a representative of the firm of Messrs. Thrasher & Co., of Springfield, Mass., who, she said, promised to cable Ambassador Walter Hines Page at London, asking the latter for a complete report on the death of her brother-in-law.

U. S. Officials Get No Report.

No report of the death of Leon C. Thrasher, an American mining engineer, one of the victims of the destruction of the steamer Falaba by a German submarine, had been received by the State Department today from an Ambassador Page in London.

Secretary Bryan said that no inquiry had been sent by the department.

He presumed that Ambassador Page would report promptly anything received by the department of the liner, he said, which might be of interest to the United States.

CHARGES ARE DROPPED.

No Prosecution of Bribery Case Against Consul and Secretary.

SEATTLE, Wash., March 31.—The prosecution of Dr. Wilhelm Mueller, German consul at Seattle, and B. Max Schulz, his secretary, charged with conspiracy to bribe an employee of the Seattle Construction and Dry Dock Company to reveal secrets of its employees' business, will be dropped.

The State Department at Washington believes that the prosecution under a state law he discontinued. Alfred Lunan, prosecuting attorney, who caused the arrest of the consul and his secretary, consented to the discontinuance when he learned that a federal statute prevented his bringing the consul before a state court. Federal courts, according to the statute, have jurisdiction in all cases against consuls.

WILSON TO CONFER WITH D. C. HEADS

District Commissioners Arrange Meeting to Discuss Municipal Affairs.

JUSTICE SIDDONS AND MAJ. PULLMAN INVITED

Nesbit Also to Be There to Tell of Insurance Matters, It Is Stated.

District Commissioners Newman, Brownlow and Kutz, Insurance Commissioner Charles F. Nesbit, Raymond W. Pullman, who is to be the new superintendent of police, and Justice Siddons, former commissioner, will spend several hours with President Wilson tomorrow night telling him about District Affairs. The object of the conference, which was initiated by the Commissioners, is to give the President as complete information as possible as to the policies and methods being pursued by the present District government.

The Commissioners have had little opportunity in the past, it is stated, to talk fully and freely with the President, whose time was devoted to national matters pending in Congress. At no time has the President been able to give over half an hour, at one time, to the heads of the District government.

Will Detail Fiscal Fight.

It is understood the Commissioners will give the President a complete history of the fight over the fiscal relations of the District and general government which culminated in the creation of the congressional commission to investigate and report upon the subject.

The board as a whole has no policy on this vital question, each Commissioner is doing, its policies toward local utilities and its general purposes in that line, as desired by the commission and will not undertake, it has become known, to lay an undivided opinion before the investigators.

The President will also receive information from the Commissioners as to the public utilities commission which is doing, its policies toward local utilities and its general purposes in that line, as desired by the commission and will not undertake, it has become known, to lay an undivided opinion before the investigators.

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QUEEN ON BORDER, FUNSTON REPORTS

Only Desultory Firing During Night on Mexican Side of Line.

U. S. INFANTRY REGIMENT HELD AT TEXAS CITY

Villa Reported at Torreon Going Away From the Scene of Hostilities.

Maj. Gen. Funston, who has taken personal charge of the situation at Brownsville, commanding the American forces stationed along the border to preserve American lives and property during the impending battle, today reported to Secretary Garrison: "Desultory firing on both sides last night. Everything quiet today."

Should more troops be necessary on the American side at Laredo, Tex., in the event of an attack on Nuevo Laredo, a regiment of infantry is in readiness at Texas City.

Gen. Villa apparently has abandoned his plan to personally direct the fighting at Matamoros. State Department and Carranza and Villa agency reports agree that he is at Torreon, going south, but differ as to the reason.

The Villa agency announced that he was organizing an expedition to round up Carranza troops operating in northern Sonora near the American border. The Carranza agency claims Villa is at Torreon to prevent Gen. Ariana from going over with his entire force to Eulalio Gutierrez, after a quarrel with Gen. Angeles.

Assembling for Battle.

Advices from the border to the State and War departments report the Villa forces bound to attack the Carranza garrison at Nuevo Laredo were expected to reach Laredo last evening, "where a battle probably will be fought." Earlier messages said Carranza troops were being assembled at Nuevo Laredo, including the force recently driven out of Piedras Negras. The garrison will number 1,200 in all, and presumably a part of this force will be sent along the National railway to meet the Villa force at Lampazos if the battle is not already in progress.

The situation at Matamoros, at Brownsville, across the border, is tense. The Villa troops, repulsed Saturday in their first attack, are now camped five miles from the city. The State Department was advised, expecting to report the assault on arrival of their artillery.

On the American side a dozen guns from the 3d Field Artillery are ready for any emergency. Secretary Garrison said the instructions sent to Gen. Funston were to hold the line, and when bullets and shells fell on the American side during the fighting at Nacoztlan, Gen. Funston refused to give to return the fire if the same thing happened at Brownsville.

Situation in Capital.

Secretary Bryan characterized the situation at Mexico City as "uncertain, but with no disorders." No report has been received from the capital since the department.

The food situation is again somewhat critical, Mr. Bryan said, but Gen. Garza has given assurances that something will be done to meet the emergency.

Reports from the border that Villa had demanded of Zapata that he should leave the capital again had reached the department.

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VILLAGES NEAR OUTER FORTS OF DARDANELLES UNDER FIRE

Allied Fleet Resumes Bombardment—Petrograd Reports Success When Ships Shell Bosphorus.

LONDON, March 31.—A Reuter's dispatch received from Constantinople by way of Berlin says the allied fleet has resumed its bombardment of villages near the outer forts of the Dardanelles. Turkish aviators are making daily reconnaissance.

The operations in the Dardanelles were confined to an intense bombardment of several Turkish positions, in which seaplanes co-operated. The Turkish reply was feeble.

Bosphorus Operations.

An official Russian communication tells of the operations of the Russian fleet against the Bosphorus. It says: "Monday morning our fleet approached the outer fortifications of the Bosphorus, but was unable to continue the bombardment, as a fog shrouded the coasts."

"One of our smaller ships exchanged shots with a Turkish destroyer, which made out at all speeds for the Bosphorus after the first shots."

Fliers Report Damage.

"Sunday's bombardment of the Bosphorus," says the Daily News Petrograd correspondent, "was favored by fine weather, giving the aviators a clear view of the damage inflicted. The worst damage was done to Fort Ilanmas, where the twelve-inch guns of the Russian fleet were in position to make good their losses in ships, however great, the Russian Black sea fleet in the position to do that. Great caution also is required, as the forts at both ends are manned with heavy guns."

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